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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 FMC-04 INR-10

NSAE-00 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-07 SWF-02 AID-20 OIC-04 L-03

SCI-06 CEQ-02 EPA-04 PM-07 H-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 DRC-01 ACDA-19 /247 W
---------- 061252
R 281709Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0723
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, IMCO
SUBJ: SHIPPING: IMCO COUNCIL MEETING, MAY 21-24

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF SUBJECT MEETING: MOST AGENDA ITEMS, INCLUDING PREPARATION FOR EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY SESSION AND FRG REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL HANDLED IN BRIEF AND BUSINESS LIKE FASHION. MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUE, INVITATION FORMULA FOR IMCO CONFERENCES, REPORTED SEPTELS.

2. PREPARATIONS FOR SOLAS CONFERENCE. COUNCIL APPROVED SYG ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOLAS CONVENTION. IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS USDEL OBTAINED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR ADM. EDWARDS CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENCY OF SOLAS CONFERENCE. CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR AN LDC TO CHAIR COMMITTEEI (ARTICLES) AND EITHER MSC OR MEPC CHAIRMAN TO CHAIR COMMITTEE II (REGULATIONS).
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INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ALSO SHOWED CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT

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FOR EFFECTIVE TACIT ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE WITH TIME LIMIT FOR EXERCISING EXPRESS APPROVAL TO DELAY COMING INTO FORCE. UKDEL CONVINCED THAT FRENCH DEL NOT ENTIRELY OPPOSED TO THIS UK COMPROMISE. SOLUTION WHICH WAS PROPOSED AT LAST MSC MEETING, UK NOT WEDDED TO TIME LENGTHS IN ITS ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE AND INVITED OTHERS TO SUBMIT COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY AND FRG PROPOSAL. COUNCIL AGREED ON OCT. 16-18, 1974 DATE FOR 5TH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF IMCO ASSEMBLY, WHICH SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER COUNCIL AND MSC ENLARGEMENT. IN INTRODUCING REPORT OF AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THIS SUBJECT, ITS CHAIRMAN (LONGE, NIGERIA) REFERRED TO W.G. RECOMMENDATION AS TIGHTLY WORKED OUT COMPROMISE PACKAGE WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BE MAINTAINED AT ASSEMBLY. FRENCH DEL INTRODUCED ITS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO IMCO CONVENTION IN STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER. COUNCIL NOTED FRENCH/PROPOSAL WITHOUT DISCUSSION. UNDER SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM ON FRG PROPOSAL FOR IMCO REORGANIZATION, FRG DEL STATED ITS PROPOSAL OVERTAKEN BY WORK OF WORKING GROUP AND FRENCH AMENDMENT PROPOSALS, AND VOICED SUPPORT FOR LATTER, THEREBY EFFECTIVELY WITHDRAWING FRG PROPOSAL. FRG SAID THAT IT INTENDED RETURN AT SOMETIME IN FUTURE TO REMAINING ASPECT OF ITS PROPOSAL, I.E. QUESTION OF APPROPRIATENESS OF "CONSULTATIVE" DESCRIPTION OF IMCO WORK. COMMENT: ABOVE ACTION MEANS THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF FRENCH PROPOSAL TO BE HELD IN EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY. MANY DELS CONVINCED THAT THIS INEVITABLE AND THAT ATTEMPT TO DIVERT DISCUSSION TO POSSIBLE AD HOC GROUP TO DISCUSS FRG PROPOSAL WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL. THESE DELS ALSO FEEL THERE LITTLE SUPPORT FOR FRENCH AMENDMENTS. FRG APPARENTLY WITHDREW ITS PROPOSAL IN LIGHT OF LACK OF SUPPORT.

4. REPORT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE. SECRETARY GENERAL REPORTED ON IMCO EFFORTS TO HAVE UNDP ESTABLISH INTERREGIONAL ADVISERS POSTS ON MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND MARITIME LEGISLATION, AND POSTS IN UN REGIONAL COMMISSIONS TO ASSIST IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT WITHIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

COMPETENCY OF IMCO TO EXECUTE. SECRETARY GENERAL REPORTED POSITIVE INITIAL REACTION FROM UNDP BUT, AS HE REPORTED, UNDP CONCERNED ALSO ABOUT ABILITY PRESENT SMALL IMCO TECHNICAL COOPERATION STAFF TO BACKSTOP EFFECTIVELY. COUNCIL, IN LIGHT OF EXTENSIVE PRIOR EXCHANGE IN IMCO TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE, AUTHORIZED SECRETARY GENERAL TO ASSURE UNDP THAT ADEQUATE BACKSTOPPING WOULD BE PROVIDED. TERMS OF COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION CAREFULLY

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CONFINED, HOWEVER, TO PRESERVE UNANIMITY WHILE TAKING ACCOUNT OF FACT DELEGATIONS NOT IN POSITION TO APPROVE FORMAL ACTION. COMMENT. SECRETARY GENERAL PROPOSAL CONSISTENT WITH BASIC US OBJECTIVES IN IMCO: L. TO ESTABLISH GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF IMCO IN LDC'S; 2. TO THEREBY FACILITATE GREATER ACCEPTANCE OF AND ENTRY INTO FORCE OF IMCO CONVENTIONS AND 3. TO ACQUAINT LDC'S

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WITH IMCO ROLE IN MARINE POLLUTION AND THEREBY HELP PRESERVE THIS ROLE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF FORTHCOMING LOS CONFERENCE.

5. LEGAL COMMITTEE. COUNCIL ACCEPTED US PROPOSAL TO DIRECT LEGAL COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE WORK ON DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSA-

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TION FUND ASAP, PREFERABLY AT 24TH SESSION (NOV.'74).
COUNCIL ALSO AGREED TO SUGGESTION THAT LEGAL COMMITTEE
BE ASKED TO COMMENT ON NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL. NORWAY
SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF FEWER MEETINGS OF FULL
COMMITTEE, TOGETHER WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL WORKING
GROUPS WHICH WOULD PREPARE DRAFT TEXTS, HOPEFULLY
PERMITTING MORE EFFICIENT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF WORK.
COUNCIL WILL RETURN TO MATTER AT ITS SPRING SESSION.

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6. MARITIME SATELLITES. COUNCIL APPROVED MARSAT
CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS OVER US OBJECTION TO INCREASE
ITS BUDGET FROM $83,000 TO $135,000. US ALSO ENTERED
RESERVATION, AS CONTAINED IN POSITION PAPER, ABOUT
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON MARSAT SYSTEM. IN RELATED
ISSUE SOV DEL PROPOSED THAT COUNCIL DEFER DECISION ON
DRAFT LETTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN IMCO AND INSTELSAT
(AGENDA ITEM 16), ON BASIS COUNCIL APPROVAL MIGHT
PREJUDICE MARSAT NEGOTIATIONS. POLAND, NORWAY, AND
FRANCE SUPPORTED USSR. USDEL ARGUED IN FAVOR OF COUNCIL
APPROVAL AND AS COMPROMISE PROPOSED CAVEAT THAT COUNCIL
APPROVAL WOULD NOT IMPLY PREJUDICE TO MARSAT NEGOTIA-
TIONS. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, SMALL DRAFTING
GROUP (US, USSR, AND INDONESIA) ESTABLISHED TO REVISE
TEXT OF LETTER. COUNCIL APPROVED REVISION WHICH
TRANSMITTED TO PANEL OF EXPERTS FOR ANY COMMENTS IT
MAY HAVE. HOWEVER, SYG WILL HAVE TO RENEGOTIATE TEXT
WITH INTELSAT.

7. ECOSOC CONTAINER STANDARDS RESOLUTION. (REF
STATE 105066).
USDEL INTRODUCED DRAFT RESOLUTION ON RECENT ECOSOC
ACTION TO ESTABLISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL AD HOC GROUP ON
CONTAINER TRANSPORT IN UNCTAD. USDEL ALSO BRIEFLY
EXPLAINED BACKGROUND OF ECOSOC CONTAINER STANDARDS
RESOLUTION. WITH LARGELY PROCEDURAL MODIFICATION OF
TEXT PROPOSED BY UK, AND NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, COUNCIL
UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION. IT LEFT TO SECRETARIAT
TO WORK OUT FINAL TEXT OF UK-PROPOSED MODIFICATION.
THRUST OF RESOLUTION IS TO RECALL IMCO ROLE IN TECHNICAL
WORK ON CONTAINERS AND TO ASSERT IMCO ROLE FOR WORK OF
AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, GE, EEC, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (BRANDT, WILLY), (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)
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